Exploitation of children of Balmiki/Sweepers in schools

†2411. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that children of Balmiki/Sweepers are forced to clean toilets in schools even today;

(b) whether they are playing with their lives in this way; and

(c) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) to (c) No specific instance has been brought to notice of this Ministry in this regard.

Demand to extend SC status to Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians

2412. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of MPs, leaders and Chief Ministers across the party line have urged the Prime Minister to extend Scheduled Caste (SC) status of Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to extend SC status to Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians;

(d) whether Government is planning to introduce a Bill for extending Scheduled Castes status to dalit Muslims during Winter Session of Parliament; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) Requests have been received for Scheduled Caste status for converts to Christianity and Islam, who originally belonged to castes specified as Scheduled Castes.

(c) to (e) The matter is *sub-judice*.

Hostels for SC/ST students in North-Eastern States

2413. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the hostels built for SC/ST students at various places in North Eastern States are being used for other means;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of hostels available in North Eastern States for SC/ST students with State-wise details;

(d) whether Government has taken action on the officials concerned or NGOs responsible for that;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) whether any guideline or instruction has been issued by the Government for proper implementation of SC/ST Hostel Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its Report No. 14 of 2007 informed that (i) 6 SC/ST hostels in Assam were used as staff quarters, class rooms and staff common room, and (ii) 5 hostels in Manipur had been converted into and used as college/school buildings.

(c) A Statement indicating the State-wise total number of hostels for SC/ST boys and girls in North Eastern Region, sanctioned by the Central Government, during last three years is given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) to (f) The observation of Comptroller and Auditor General of India was communicated to the concerned State Governments. The running and maintenance of these hostels is squarely the responsibility of the concerned State Governments/implementing agencies, as only grant for construction is given. The guidelines are part of the SC/ST hostel schemes, which have been circulated to all State Governments/UT administrations and the implementing agencies.

Statement

Number of Hostels for SC/ST boys and girls sanctioned by the Central Government, in North Eastern Region, during last three years

States	Hostels Sanctioned
Arunachal Pradesh	8
Assam	15
Manipur	43
Meghalaya	4
Mizoram	—
Nagaland	3
Tripura	7
Sikkim	—
TOTAL	80

SC status to Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims

2414. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Government's position on the demand of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims to extend the Scheduled Castes status to them; and

(b) whether Government has furnished the reply to the Supreme Court to the writ petitions demanding the deletion of Para 3 of the Constitution Scheduled Castes Order, 1950?